

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-3 – cancelled.

4. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for manufacturing a fiberoptic device, comprising:

a fiber rotator mounted on a first stage, said fiber rotator carrying an optical fiber therein, and being operative to rotate said optical fiber about an optical axis thereof;

a second stage for holding a silicon slab;

a fiber gripping assembly disposed between said first stage and said second stage for gripping an intermediate portion of said optical fiber;

a first viewer directed toward said silicon slab along an axis that is orthogonal to said optical axis and orthogonal to a surface of said second stage upon which said silicon slab rests;

a second viewer directed toward an end face of said optical fiber along said optical axis;

a weight, mounted on a third stage, a free end of said weight impinging on said optical fiber to urge an end portion of said optical fiber onto said silicon slab,

wherein responsive to views displayed by said first viewer and said second viewer, said first stage, said second stage, said fiber rotator, and said fiber gripping assembly are independently adjustable to establish said optical fiber in a desired position on said silicon slab,

and

~~The apparatus according to claim 2,~~ wherein said weight is pivotally mounted and pivots between a first position wherein said weight is in a non-contacting relationship with said optical fiber and a second position wherein said weight impinges on said optical fiber.

5. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for manufacturing a fiberoptic device,
comprising:
a fiber rotator mounted on a first stage, said fiber rotator carrying an optical fiber therein,
and being operative to rotate said optical fiber about an optical axis thereof;
a second stage for holding a silicon slab;
a fiber gripping assembly disposed between said first stage and said second stage for
gripping an intermediate portion of said optical fiber;
a first viewer directed toward said silicon slab along an axis that is orthogonal to said
optical axis and orthogonal to a surface of said second stage upon which said silicon slab rests;
a second viewer directed toward an end face of said optical fiber along said optical axis;
a weight, mounted on a third stage, a free end of said weight impinging on said optical
fiber to urge an end portion of said optical fiber onto said silicon slab,
wherein responsive to views displayed by said first viewer and said second viewer, said
first stage, said second stage, said fiber rotator, and said fiber gripping assembly are
independently adjustable to establish said optical fiber in a desired position on said silicon slab,
and

~~The apparatus according to claim 2,~~ wherein said weight comprises:
a first weight that urges said end portion of said optical fiber into a groove formed in said silicon slab; and

a second weight that urges said end portion of said optical fiber onto a flat portion of said silicon slab.

Claim 6 – cancelled.

7. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for manufacturing a fiberoptic device,
comprising:
a fiber rotator mounted on a first stage, said fiber rotator carrying an optical fiber therein,
and being operative to rotate said optical fiber about an optical axis thereof;
a second stage for holding a silicon slab;
a fiber gripping assembly disposed between said first stage and said second stage for
gripping an intermediate portion of said optical fiber;
a first viewer directed toward said silicon slab along an axis that is orthogonal to said
optical axis and orthogonal to a surface of said second stage upon which said silicon slab rests;
a second viewer directed toward an end face of said optical fiber along said optical axis;
wherein responsive to views displayed by said first viewer and said second viewer, said
first stage, said second stage, said fiber rotator, and said fiber gripping assembly are
independently adjustable to establish said optical fiber in a desired position on said silicon slab,

~~The apparatus according to claim 1,~~ wherein said fiber gripping assembly is supplied by a vacuum line, and includes a channel formed therein for establishing fluid communication between said vacuum line and a tip portion of said fiber gripping assembly[[:]], and

wherein said optical fiber is held in said tip portion of said fiber gripping assembly by suction transmitted via said channel.

8. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said tip portion has a groove formed therein, and said optical fiber is received in said groove.

9. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said groove is dimensioned such that a surface of said optical fiber contacts a first side wall of said groove and contacts a second side wall of said groove.

Claims 10-11 cancelled.

12. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for manufacturing a fiberoptic device comprising:

a fiber rotator mounted on a first stage, said fiber rotator carrying an optical fiber therein, and being operative to rotate said optical fiber about an optical axis thereof;

a second stage for holding a silicon slab, ~~The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein~~ said second stage ~~is being~~ connected to a vacuum line and said silicon slab ~~is being~~ exposed to vacuum transmitted via said vacuum line;

a fiber gripping assembly disposed between said first stage and said second stage for gripping an intermediate portion of said optical fiber;

a first viewer directed toward said silicon slab along an axis that is orthogonal to said optical axis and orthogonal to a surface of said second stage upon which said silicon slab rests;

a second viewer directed toward an end face of said optical fiber along said optical axis;

wherein responsive to views displayed by said first viewer and said second viewer, said first stage, said second stage, said fiber rotator, and said fiber gripping assembly are adjustable to establish said optical fiber in a desired position on said silicon slab.

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Claims 13-24 – cancelled.